

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber, comprising:
moving a cutting blade by applying a drive force so as to transit a center portion of
[[an]] the optical fiber;

reducing an amount of the drive force applied to said cutting blade after said cutting
blade transits the center portion of said optical fiber by a drive ~~speed reduction~~ force
transmission device to move said cutting blade at a constant speed while cutting the
optical fiber; and

automatically stopping transmission of said drive force to said cutting blade when
cutting of the optical fiber is done.

Claims 18-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to
Claim 17, wherein the moving step further comprises moving said cutting blade by applying
said drive force to a cutting blade holder, said cutting blade holder configured to hold said
cutting blade and to receive said drive force from [[said]] a drive speed reduction device
through [[a]] said drive force transmission device to move said cutting blade.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 21, wherein said drive force is provided by a motor.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 22, wherein the applying step further comprises applying said drive force to said cutting blade holder from said drive speed reduction device including a plurality of speed reducing gears configured to reduce a rotational speed of said motor.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 23, wherein the applying step further comprises applying said drive force to said cutting blade holder through said drive force transmission device including a cam configured to rotate along with a rotation of said plurality of speed reducing gears, and a cam follower configured to move in a rectilinear direction along with a rotation of said cam.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to claim 23, wherein the moving step further comprises transmitting said drive force between said drive force transmission ~~[[part]]~~ device and said motor ~~by forcibly rotating through~~ one of said plurality of speed reducing gears, said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears meshing gear teeth provided on a part of an outer periphery thereof with gear teeth provided on an outer periphery of another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears, and the automatically stopping step further comprises facing of a part of said outer periphery of said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears having no gear teeth being provided to said gear teeth provided on said outer periphery of said another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears.